

BLUES TAKE THIRD SPOT IN STYLE

BARKING 2; WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1

IN a great finish to their Isthmian League Season, Wycombe Wanderers made third position in the Premier Division their own on Saturday with a performance at Mayesbrook Park that ranked as one of the best all season.

On a surface as poor as any in the league, it was a game of two halves. Barking were two goals up at half-time, but Wycombe put it all together after the interval to score three times, and climb over Tooting and Mitcham in the table.

Barking, playing with three strikers as well as Terry Dibble in the No 5 shirt up front, had Peter Spittle under early pressure, and continued to dominate the first half.

Early Wanderers attacks were scarce, but even at this stage it was obvious that Dylan Evans

was heading for a superb game, constantly winning balls in the air and on the ground.

On 17 minutes, Barking went ahead with a neatly taken goal. Noel Ashford's cross to Peter Burton was neatly chipped through for Dibble to place it wide of Spittle from six yards.

Shortly after another perfect cross had Wycombe's defence in a tangle. The ball bounced around in the box, until Dingwall got in a brilliant overhead kick with Spittle beaten. The ball was flashing in under the bar when Alan Phillips had little choice but to palm it over to give away an obvious penalty. Dingwall scored from the spot.

Barking did not sit on their lead. Burton, Dingwall and Ashford were always dangerous in attack and were well supported by Hamberger and Irons. At the other end Evans continued a lone fight, and with Barking's Youth Team's goalkeeper, 16-year-old Alan Saunders looking none too sure, Wycombe were swept in and a shame.

What Wanderers lacked in the second half was a goal-scorer. And they got it.

Holliday, who had been having another quiet game, got in front of the defence and scored the first goal of the second half.

Wycombe's defence knew that this was the last time they would see the goalkeepers.

Evans and Holliday continued to give Barking trouble, and to cross perfectly for Gordon McKenzie to score it with a fine header at the far post.

04722700

With Holliday and Phillips buzzing Barking's defence in the midfield, Holliday and Evans both went close at the hour before Phillips hit the Wanderers' third goal. He and Evans were in full flight on the ball, and beating two defenders, cutting way Wycombe's full back, scored a low shot into the net from an acute angle.

Barking were not flustered. A massive free kick from 25 yards by Hamberger was deflected off target by the defensive wall onto the crossbar.

Wanderers however, did not relax, and in the closing stages Harris, Evans and Holliday all went close. Howard Kennedy also got in the act, sending the goalkeeper full stretch from 20 yards.